

## REMARKS

Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the rejections under 112 and 102. With respect to the rejection under 112, the Examiner agreed that amending claim 26 to read "...wherein the sandwich design includes ~~is realized using~~ a GLARE material ..." would overcome the indefiniteness objection. This is supported in the specification at paragraph [0019] in the sentence which starts "In addition." Therefore, no new matter is added by the amendment. With respect to the rejection under 102, the difference between the claim language of claim 17, having recited a carbon fiber "coated with" a material, and the Westre reference, which discloses only carbon fibers or, alternatively, boron or silicone carbide fibers, but does not disclose coated carbon fibers.

Claim 17 recites coated carbon fibers, which is an element entirely omitted from the Westre reference; therefore, the Westre reference fails to anticipate claim 17 and the claims depending from claim 17. For this reason, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection for anticipation.

Furthermore, none of the other cited references teach or suggest coated carbon fibers. Therefore, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Specifically, Applicant's representation pointed out that original claim 11 and paragraph [0021] disclose coated carbon fibers, wherein the carbon fibers are coated with a material having a boron or nitride bond, such as "silicone carbide, silicone nitride or boron nitride." This list caused some confusion. The examples listed are materials having a boron or nitride bond and are examples of the types of materials with which the carbon fibers may be coated. A carbon fiber coated with a layer of silicone carbide, silicone nitride or boron nitride is fundamentally different than a silicone carbide, silicone nitride or boron nitride fiber. Thus, col. 13, lines 44-52, of the Westre reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of claim 17. Indeed, the Westre reference teaches that the open-hole compressive strength of a fiber reinforced composite is highly sensitive to the type of fiber used in the composite. Other properties are likewise dependent on fiber choice; therefore, it is not possible to merely

interchange one type of fiber for another, in this art. For this reason, it would not be obvious to use coated carbon fibers in place of the fibers used in the Westre reference.

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Respectfully submitted,



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